

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes - Final
March 21, 2007

In Attendance: Sheri Baron, Marlissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Vita Cohen, Joseph Curro, Mahendra Desai, Jorge Loayza, A. Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads, Bill Shea, Nancy Sweeney

Absent: Christine Deshler, Marlene Schultz

Citizen's Open Forum - No citizens appeared before the Commission

Christine Connolly - Health and Human Services Director, was our guest tonight. She distributed a handout of the departments that come under her direction and expressed budget concerns at all levels. She spoke of a substance abuse coalition (community forum) at the Town Hall on May 3rd from 6:30 to 9:00pm and invited the commission to attend. For continuity she requested to be included in all aspects of the work of the AHRC.

Review of February Minutes - approved as amended

Vacancy and Absences - Joe Curro submitted a press release to the Advocate - he also suggested a student appointment if a School Committee opening should arise.

No Place For Hate - Lt. Hughes, Annie LaCourt, Clarissa Rowe, Sue Lovelace, and Joe Curro met to work out plans for next meeting March 28th - discussion of what needs to be accomplished and how to address the ADL issues - how other towns work the program - recruit steering committee members that will really work for the program - consider an advisory group for those who can't get too involved - hope to leave next meeting more focused on what is needed - committee members must be willing to participate and move ahead.

Diversity Training - Bill Shea reported that the Finance Committee approved \$3,000 for this program - Nancy Rhoads submitted two more proposals - EMI and Amber Mayes Consulting - they will be interviewed in April - dates to be announced - members expressed concern for timing of program - more planning to follow once decision is made.

Incidents and Complaints -

Brackett School incident - Bill Shea, Marlissa Briggett, Marlene Schultz and Joe Curro will meet to discuss recent complaint.

Basketball incident - Joe Curro has written a report on the incident and will ask for a meeting with Nate Levenson ASAP - and will write a letter to Sue Sheffler, Arlington School Committee Chair, thanking her for giving the AHRC the opportunity to meet with them. He will also let her know of the AHRC intention to draft a report on the findings and recommendations regarding the recent basketball incidents.

Budget - tabled

Subcommittee Reports -

a Dialogues - Nancy Rhoads suggested involving some school committee members and special education involvement in a dialogue - Joe Curro will look into diversity and health care disparities.

b. Policies and Procedures - none at this time

c. Schools - members discussed recent meeting with Mr Skidmore who spoke of little groups that gather but do not seem to be a problem at the High School - also reported on looking into some Metco issues.

Janice Bakey has invited HRC members to be involved in a workshop that will be held on April 13th at the High School - no decision.

d. Rapid Response/Publicity - Joe Curro press release to the Advocate - attached

Other Business -

Because of scheduling conflicts our next meeting has been moved to Tuesday, April 24th at the Whittemore Robbins House beginning with the EMI interview at 7:30pm and our regular meeting at 8:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

Prepared and submitted by:

Marylynn Carnell

Staff Assistant